EPI Update for Friday, March 11, 2011 Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) lowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- Measles activity in the United States
- Baby chick and duckling safety tips for parents and childcare providers
- The costs and benefits of gambling in lowa
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Measles activity in the United States

In recent months there have been multiple cases of measles identified across the United States, including a case in a Minnesota infant too young to be vaccinated.

Any individual suspected of having measles (generalized rash lasting greater than or equal to three days, temperature >101° Fahrenheit, and cough or coryza or conjunctivitis) or any fever in a person who has been recently exposed to measles, should:

- 1) Have serology for IgM drawn immediately and sent to the State Hygienic Laboratory (testing is performed at no cost to the patient and on an emergency basis if approved by public health).
- 2) Be immediately reported to the lowa Department of Public Health Department at 800-362-2736 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) and the local health department. This is considered a public health emergency.
- 3) Be told to go home and stay home until measles can be excluded from the diagnosis. This and other control activities should not be delayed pending the return of laboratory results from persons suspected of having measles.

Persons with measles are contagious from one to two days prior to onset of symptoms (about four days before rash onset) to four days after the appearance of the rash. The incubation period is 7 to 18 days, and averages 10 days to onset of fever and 14 days to the onset of rash.

To prevent measles, children (and some adults) should be vaccinated with two doses of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. Recommended Immunization Schedules" can be obtained at: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/default.htm.

For more information on measles, please visit www.idph.state.ia.us/idph_universalhelp/main.aspx?system=IdphEpiManual&context=measles_chapter

Baby chick and duckling safety tips for parents and childcare providers

Salmonella bacteria are a common cause of foodborne illness, but can also be spread to people by direct contact with animals that carry the bacteria, such as reptiles and birds. Children can be at particular risk from these birds, since they are less likely to wash their hands and have more frequent hand-to-mouth contact than adults. Outbreaks of Salmonella infections have been linked to exposure to baby chicks and ducklings, and many of these outbreaks have occurred in the spring, around Easter. Here are some important tips for parents and child care providers to reduce the exposure of young children to Salmonella from chicks and ducklings.

- Do not let children younger than five years of age handle baby chicks, other young birds, or items contaminated by the poultry.
- Wash your hands thoroughly after handling poultry or their droppings. Pacifiers, toys, bottles or other objects should not touch the baby birds or their cages. If these objects become contaminated, wash them with warm soapy water.
- Do not eat or drink around poultry or their living areas.
- Keep the bird area separate from areas where food and drink are prepared or consumed. Do not allow chicks or ducklings on table surfaces or places where food will be prepared or eaten. Do not wash the birds' food and water dishes in the kitchen sink.

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/healthypets/easter_chicks.htm .

The costs and benefits of gambling in Iowa

Since the Pari-Mutuel Wagering Act became law in Iowa in 1983, the economic benefits of Iowa's gambling industry have become well-known. Last year alone, state casinos generated \$306,575,000 in tax revenue and employed nearly 10,000 people. Since the lottery's inception in 1985, more than \$1 billion has been raised for state programs.

What may not be so well-known is the heavy price individuals and their families and communities pay related to problem gambling. The social consequences of problem gambling include broken relationships, mental health problems, ruined finances and lost jobs. Of those seeking problem gambling treatment in lowa, 30 percent reported gambling-related debt over \$20,000, 32 percent have filed bankruptcy, and 17 percent have been arrested in the past 12 months. National studies have found that 17 percent of pathological gamblers have attempted suicide, 20 percent have major depression and 76 percent have a lifetime history of a substance use.

National Problem Gambling Awareness Week is March 6 to 12, 2011. More information about problem gambling and help that is available can be found by calling 1-800-BETSOFF (1-800-238-7633) or at www.1800betsoff.org.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a healthy and happy week! Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology Iowa Department of Public Health 800-362-2736